

Claims

1. A process for treating a metal surface which is aluminium or an aluminium alloy in order to improve its adhesion properties which comprises treating a clean metal surface with an organosilane and exposing the surface to a laser which produces an elevated temperature on the surface of the metal.
2. A process as claimed in claim 1 in which an organosilane is applied to the metal surface and the coated surface is then exposed to a laser.
3. A process as claimed in claim 1 or 2 in which the organosilane has the general formula I
$$R_nSi(OR^1)_m$$
where R is an organic group which may be reactive or non-reactive, R¹ is alkyl, alkoxyalkyl, or acyl, n is 1 or 2 and m is 2 or 3 such that n + m = 4.
4. A process as claimed in any preceding claim in which the metal surface is cleaned by degreasing with an organic solvent.
5. A process as claimed in any preceding claim in which the silane is used in solution in water and/or an organic solvent.
6. A process as claimed in claim 5 in which the said solution contains from 1 to 10% by weight of organosilane.
7. A process as claimed in any preceding claim in which the laser is a non-focussed laser.
8. A method of bonding a metal surface which is aluminium or an aluminium alloy to another surface which comprises treating the metal surface by a process as claimed in any one of the preceding claims and then bonding it to the other surface with an adhesive.